

Independent Novel Journaling

After you have selected your independent novel and have a copy, begin reading. As you are reading, you will need to journal. By the end of your novel, you should have completed six journal entries. These will be closer in resemblance to your *Huck Finn* journals than your *Red Badge* journals

You will write six journals. These are worth 15 points each. These journals will be checked on assigned due dates and can be either typed or hand-written. The journals should reflect thought and analysis of what you are reading; do not ONLY summarize what you have read.

There are three parts to each journal entry...

Part one of each journal is to summarize what you have read in that section. Remember, this part should be no more than half a page.

For *part two* complete the following prompts (you will complete only one prompt per journal entry, not all six—please complete them in order):

#1: Quote Journal

Locate a quote you find interesting and important.

1. Copy it down and write down the pg. #
2. Explain who said it and why. What is happening in the story that this was said?
3. How do you feel about what is said? Why?
4. Why do you think this quote is important?

#2: Conflict Analysis

Discuss the main conflict in the story.

- What is the central conflict or problem in the story at this point?
How do you think it will be resolved?
How do you feel so far about the subject matter? Why?

#3: Prediction

Predict what you think will happen later in your book.

What will happen to your main characters? If your story has some sort of impact on a larger society, what do you think the outcome will be for it? What sort of resolution do you see your story coming to?

#4: Author Critique

Evaluate the author...

1. Explain the author's style of writing and how it impacts the story.
2. Give your opinion of the author's style. Do you like it? Why or why not? Theorize why the author has made these stylistic choices.
3. Critique the book so far. What do you like? What don't you like? Why? What could be done to improve the novel?

#5: Curriculum Review

Should this book be added to the PSHS curriculum?

Would this be a good book for all sophomores to have to read? Why or why not? What about this book does or does not make it a good choice. Things to consider—the reading level (is it too hard or too easy to read), the content (is the subject matter appropriate for all students to have to read), the “interest level” (is this a book you think other students would actually like reading)

#6: Evaluation Journal

Write a summative evaluation of the book.

Why did you pick this book? What was your opinion of the subject before reading? What did you know about him/her prior to this? What did you learn? Has there been a change in your opinion now that you've read this book? If yes, what caused the change? If no, what reinforced what you felt?

Part Three: Keep track of questions you have about what you've read. These questions should cover a variety of topics: plot, character motivation and development, theme development, etc. For each journal entry write down four questions you have about your book. These should be clearly listed at the end of your journal entry. Attempt to answer the questions yourself. Then you will also present these questions to your group on the days you meet with them. Use these questions to discuss the novel with your group. For each of your questions, you should write down answers they suggest.

Your groups will meet on the following dates to discuss your novels:

Monday, December 8
Thursday, December 11
Monday, December 15
Wednesday, December 17
Monday, January 5th
Thursday, January 8th

Your group is responsible for assigning chapter numbers to be covered. In other words, by Dec. 6, your group should agree that all members should have read through chapter 2 (for example). By Dec. 10, be through chapter 6...etc.

